

From the President:

March/2017

That was a short month. Seems like we went from spring to winter to warm up for the next few weeks. Bees sprang to life a little quicker than plants this spring causing starvation concerns. Blooms starting to catch up with hive size so watch your feeding and now is the time to include those additives that stimulate egg laying if you choose to do so. Drones in January! Hives increasing early so here's what we need to do; 1. Inspect your hives 10-14 days, increase space as needed, 2. Create splits as needed to relieve congestion in the brood chamber, 3. Prepare for an increase in small hive beetles due to the warm winter. Hives are already swarming in large numbers for the past month. Look for Queen cells and remember once they decide to swarm...they will. Many in the club have had remarkable success at catching their own swarms. A splits or re-queening from the swarming may be your best management choice.

The UF Bee College and Master Beekeeping program was earlier this month...wow! We were extremely well represented. More on that during the meeting. Our own Welsh Honey Judge, Don Kent, was a manager of the Honey Contest. And Larry Hirt began year 1 of the 2 year Welsh Honey Judge course.

Make sure that your honey supers are built or ready to go. I have seen bees fill a new medium super with honey in one week during the nectar flow! The general rule is to add a new super once 8 of 10 frames have been filled. April is the beginning of the Spring nectar flow. Citrus, Gallberry and Palmetto are major nectar plants which start blooming in April so honey stores will begin to swell soon. It is important to provide lots of space for your bees to grow and store honey. In Florida, we have an early and long growing season with a large variety of plants blooming, a great place to live for a Honey Bee and a Beekeeper!

Bee Healthy, Bee Happy,

Timothy R Blodgett -President

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Common Honey Bee Races in North America:

Italian—*Apis Mellifera Ligustica*—Most popular bee—gentle & good producers—prone to rob & drift
Cordovan—Subset of Italian—slightly more gentle, more likely to rob, light tan in color easy to find queen.

Caucasian—*Apis Mellifera Caucasica*, silver gray in color, tend to propolis excessively. About same productivity as Italians.

Carniolan—*Apis mellifera carnica*—dark brown to black, better in northern climates. Less productive than Italians

Russian—*Apis mellifera caucasica*—mite Resistant, a bit defensive, Swarminess and productivity are a bit more unpredictable. Traits are not well fixed.

Buckfast—a mixture of bees developed by Buckfast Abbey. Similar to Italian bees, fast spring build up, resistant to tracheal mites Reference—[Bushfarms.com/bee races](http://Bushfarms.com/bee_races)

***Michigan hygienic, University hybrids & ankle biter varieties not readily available from local producers are not listed.

Beekeepers of Volusia County FL Club Officers:

President: Tim Blodgett
Vice-president: Larry Hurt
Secretary: Donna Balo / Assistant Cindy Stretz
Treasurer: Don Ruckett
Web Site/computer: Stephen McGehee/Marlin Athern / Quentin Prior intern/
Support: Tom Homan
A-V support: Vacant
Refreshment Spvr: Pat Blodgett/volunteers welcome

Library of Beekeeping DVDs are available, see the treasurer to borrow a DVD. Library kept at meeting room.

Beekeepers of Volusia County Club Meeting
Minutes of 02/22/17

Called to order by President Tim Blodgett @ 6:33pm

44 in attendance

Yearly membership \$15/family/year are due now. Membership will close at the end of the March meeting.

Mario Jakob & John Keele from D&J Apiary highlighted the topics covered at the North American Beekeeping Conference 01/10 - 01/14/17 in Galveston, TX. Members of the American Beekeeping Federation have access to all of the topics & sessions from the conference as well as other webinars about beekeeping. Membership is \$60/year.
www.abfnet.org

Prez note: The club has been a member for years and will renew via the Treasurer.

The Florida Beekeepers Association acts in the interest of Florida beekeepers. The cost is \$30/year. www.Floridabeekeepers.org Mario & John are active in both associations & encourage others to join.

Prez note: I just joined & registered

D&J Apiary is participating in a research project using a microbial (Super DFM) a natural probiotic instead of antibiotics in hives. It can be used at any time during the year, including during the honey flow.

Devices to collect pollen at the entrances to hives were shown.

The website will have the monthly flowering plant information & a new calander

published by UF. The calendars are new and only just being published. We will use them & post on our website as they become available.

A queen cloning class is in the works, to be announced.

Bee College is March 10 & 11 at Whitney Marine Laboratory in Marineland.

50/50 raffle announced

Adjourned 8:05 pm

Submitted Donna Balo, secretary

Meeting Agenda March 22, 2017

Old Business:

- Meeting called to order
- Membership dues are due now. Membership drive will end at the end of March
- **New Business:**
- Treasurer's report, 50/50 raffle
- Review Bee College 2017; inspector shortage change in backyard bee inspections anticipated, new Asian predator, bees and nectar sources...in latin, queen management-life expectancy-reproduction damage due to GMO & NEONICATINAMIDES, ETC. Build the Bee Lab update.
- Break
- Ants & what you can do about them
- Bee yard reminders & maintenance calendar review
- Nectar source review & samples for March
- 50/50 Raffle Winner
- Q&A

Tip on Ant management: Ants will occasionally take up residence on the top of an inner cover. Bees, seldom visiting this location in a small colony(spring), leave well enough alone. Strong colonies may battle an ant colony such as this. If you discover any nest such as this, simply remove the inner cover and shake off the ants, eggs, larvae and nest material several yards away.

Florida Management Beekeeper Calendar – Central Florida Used with permission of University of Florida Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory Month Management Calendar Blooming Plants:

January 1- Feed colonies if light (colonies can starve!) 2- Nosema can be a significant colony problem this time of year. You can treat colonies for Nosema disease using Fumigillin. Colonies may need as much as 4 gallons of medicated syrup to control Nosema ceranae. 3- Repair/paint old equipment Sand PineF , MapleF , WillowFM F continues to bloom in February FMcontinues to bloom in February and March

February 1- Feed colonies if light (colonies can starve!) 2- Can treat colonies for Nosema disease using Fumigillin. 3- Can treat with Terramycin or Tylan for AFB. PlumM , CherryM , OakM , Walther ViburnumM , Sweet CloverM , BlueberryM , HawM , FetterbushM M continues to bloom in March

March Note: Citrus blooms in March. Make sure your colonies are ready. Talk with your growers about their pesticide habits. 1- Attend UF Bee College in Marineland!!! 2- Colony Populations begin to grow! Add supers and/or control swarming as necessary. 3- Can treat with Terramycin or Tylan dust for AFB/EFB. 4- Make nucs/splits. Orange, Spanish Needle

April 1- Disease and queen problems should be remedied. 2- Make splits/nucs – new queens available 3- Control swarming 4- Add supers, the nectar flow began in late March Orange, Sweet clover, Wild Blueberry, Haw, FetterbushM , Spanish NeedleMJ, GalberryM , Dog HobbleMJ , PalmettoMJ, Mexican CloverMJ, Butter MintMJ M continues to bloom in May J continues to bloom in June MJcontinues to bloom in May and June

May 1- Continue to inspect for colony maladies but don't treat for diseases while producing honey 2- Continue swarm control 3- Super as necessary PalmJ , Gopher AppleJ , Joint WeedJ , Sandhill Prairie CloverJ , Spiderwort/ DayflowerJ J continues to bloom in June

June 1- Super as necessary for late flowers 2- Varroa populations begin to grow – monitor colonies closely. The economic threshold is 60+ mites/day on a sticky screen or 17+ mites in an ether roll. Treat if you exceed these numbers. Mangrove, Red Bay, Cabbage Palm

July 1- Remove and process honey – main flow stops 2- Varroa populations begin to grow – monitor colonies closely. The economic threshold is 60+ mite/day on a sticky screen or 17+ mites in an ether roll for a colony of average strength. Treat if you exceed these numbers. Option include: Apigard, ApilifeVAR, Mite Away II. Spanish NeedleAS, Palmetto, Mexican CloverAS, Buttermint, Palm, Gopher Apple, Joint WeedA , RedbayAS, Sandhill Prairie CloverA , Partridge PeaA , MangroveA , Primrose WillowAS , Spiderwort/DayflowerAS A continues to bloom in August AScontinues to bloom in September

August 1- Monitor colonies for varroa (see July)! 2- Treat with Terramycin dust for AFB/EFB 3- Feed colonies if light 4-Monitor for and control small hive beetles 5- It's hot! Ensure adequate colony ventilation Spotted MintS , GoldenrodS , Vine AsterS , SumacS S continues to bloom in September

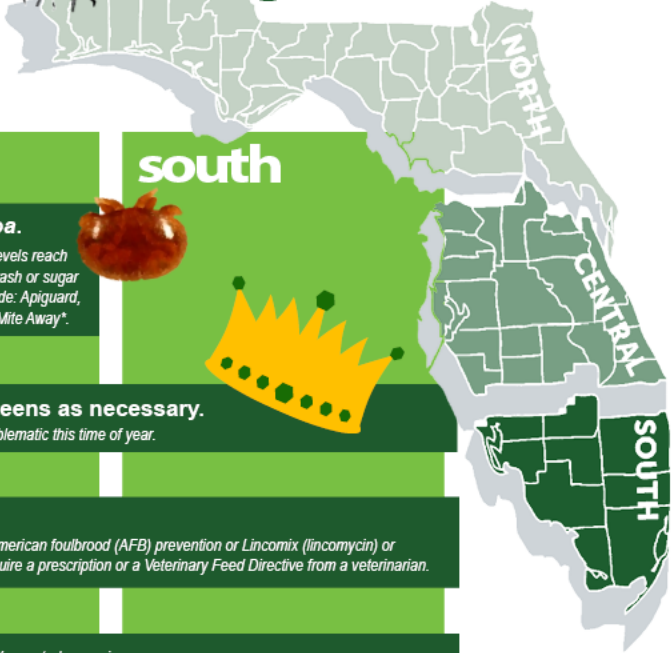
September 1- Monitor colonies for varroa (see July)! 2- Super colonies if strong B. Pepper flow 3- Consider treating colonies for Nosema disease using Fumidil-B. Colonies may need as much as 4 gallons

of medicated syrup to control *Nosema cerana*. 5- If no nectar flow, feed colonies if light Smart Weed, Brazilian Pepper, Bush Aster Note: Brazilian Pepper blooms from September through October and is a significant fall source of nect

October – December 1- Varroa populations peaked in Aug/Sept. The economic threshold is 60+ mites/day on a sticky board or 17+ mites in an ether roll for a colony of average strength. Treat if you exceed these numbers. Options include: Apiguard, ApilifeVAR, Mite Away II 2- Can treat colonies for *Nosema* disease using Fumigillin. Colonies may need as much as 4 gallons of medicated syrup to control *Nosema cerana*. 3-Monitor for and control small hive beetles (options include Checkmite+, GuardStar, Hood traps and West Beetle traps) 4- Feed colonies if light (colonies can starve!) 5-Can treat for tracheal mites (mix vegetable oil and powdered sugar until doughy (not sticky to touch): place a pancake-sized patty on top bars of brood chamber. Oct: Spanish Needle, Mexican CloverN , Primrose WillowN , Spotted MintN , GoldenrodM , Vine AsterN , Smart WeedN , Bush AsterND N continues to bloom in November D continues to bloom in December Nov: Nothing new blooms Dec: Nothing new blooms

Beekeeper MARCH

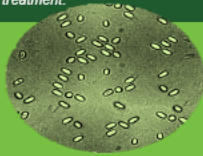
MANAGEMENT CALENDAR



north

Control Nosema.

Make sure colonies are well fed. You may treat with fumagilin* (varied effectiveness). Recheck spore counts 2-3 weeks after treatment.



central

Monitor for Varroa.

Consider treating when Varroa levels reach 3 mites/100 bees (use alcohol wash or sugar shake). Treatment options include: Apiguard, Apistan, Apivar, Hopguard, and Mite Away*.



south

Remedy failing queens as necessary.

Queen issues are especially problematic this time of year.



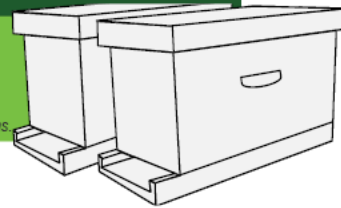
Colonies can be treated for AFB and/or EFB.

Colonies can be treated with Terramycin (oxytetracycline) or Tylan (tylosin) for American foulbrood (AFB) prevention or Lincomix (lincomycin) or Terramycin (oxytetracycline) for European foulbrood (EFB)*. These products require a prescription or a Veterinary Feed Directive from a veterinarian.

Colonies populations begin to grow. Add supers and/or control swarming as necessary.

Make nucs/splits.

*The label is the law. Always follow product label instructions.



What's Blooming?

north

Blueberry	Plum	Viburnum
Cherry	Spanish Needle	Willow
Fetterbush	Sparkleberry	
Haw	Spring Titi	
Oak	Sweet Clover	
Orange		

central

Blueberry	Plum
Cherry	Spanish Needle
Fetterbush	Sweet Clover
Haw	Viburnum
Oak	Willow
Orange	

south

American Beautyberry	Orange
Buttonwood	Primrose Willow
Lychee	Seagrape
Mangrove	Spanish Needle
Mexican Clover	Sweet Clover
Oak	Saw Palmetto